

REMARKS

Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 14-16, 21, 23, 27, 29-31, 34 and 35 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Marvich for the indication that Claims 9, 23, 27, and 29-31 are allowed. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 12 and 14-16 are allowable. In addition, Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 4-5, 8, 21, 34, and 35 are only rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Claim 6 has been objected to under grammatical grounds but these claims are otherwise free of the art of record. Consistent therewith, Applicants have amended the claims to secure claims drawn to that which the Examiner has recognized as being free from the art of record.

The rejection of Claims 7, 11, 13, 17-20, 22, 28, 32, 33, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Spaulding is obviated by amendment.

Applicants note that the rejected claims have been amended as follows: Claims 7, 11, 13, 17-20, 22, 28, 32, 33, and 36 have been canceled.

Applicants make no further statement regarding the propriety of the rejection over Spaulding and in no way acquiesce to the same. However, Applicants note that the presently pending claims are free from the disclosure of Spaulding as has been recognized by the Examiner.

Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The rejection of Claims 4, 5, 8, 18-21, and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

Claims 18-20, 32, and 33 have been canceled. Claims 4, 5, 21, 34, and 35 have been amended to replace the term "derived from" with "obtained from" consistent with the Examiner's kind suggestion. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from Claim 9 to ensure proper antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that pending Claims 4, 5, 8, 21, 34, and 35 are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The objection to Claim 6 is obviated by appropriate amendment. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Marvich for bringing their attention to the inadvertent grammatical error appearing in previously pending Claim 6. Consistent with the Examiner's gracious suggestion, Applicants have amended Claim 6, thus rendering the present grounds of objection moot. The objection to Claim 20 has been obviated by cancellation of this claim. Acknowledgment that these grounds of objection have been withdrawn is solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 50,552

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)